



How to change rear  
brake discs on **BMW E46**  
**touring** – replacement  
guide

## VIDEO TUTORIAL



### Important!

This replacement procedure can be used for:

BMW 3 Saloon (E46) 330d 2.9, BMW 3 Touring (E46) 330d 2.9, BMW 3 Touring (E46) 330xd 2.9, BMW 3 Saloon (E46) 330xd 2.9, BMW 3 Saloon (E46) 330xi 3.0, BMW 3 Touring (E46) 330xi 3.0, BMW 3 Saloon (E46) 330i 3.0, BMW 3 Touring (E46) 330i 3.0, BMW 3 Convertible (E46) 330Ci 3.0, BMW 3 Saloon (E46) 325i 2.5, BMW 3 Saloon (E46) 325xi 2.5, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 330Cd 3.0, BMW 3 Saloon (E46) 330d 3.0, BMW 3 Saloon (E46) 330xd 3.0, BMW 3 Touring (E46) 330xd 3.0, (+ 2)

The steps may slightly vary depending on the car design.

REPLACEMENT: BRAKE DISCS – BMW E46 TOURING.  
LIST OF THE TOOLS YOU'LL NEED:



- Wire brush
- WD-40 spray
- Brake cleaner
- Copper grease
- Torx bit T30
- Drive socket # 16
- HEX bit No.H7.
- Wheel impact socket #17
- Ratchet wrench
- Torque wrench
- Brake caliper wind back tool
- Tap wrench
- Impact screwdriver
- Rubber mallet
- Crow bar
- Wheel chock

**BUY TOOLS**

Replacement: brake discs – BMW E46 touring. AUTODOC experts recommend:

- Replace the brake disks on the car BMW E46 touring in complete set for each axis. Regardless of the state of components. This will ensure even braking.
- The replacement procedure is identical for both brake disks on the same axle.
- When changing the brake discs, always replace the brake pads.
- All work should be done with the engine stopped.

## REPLACEMENT: BRAKE DISCS – BMW E46 TOURING. USE THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE:

1

Open the bonnet. Unscrew the brake fluid reservoir cap.

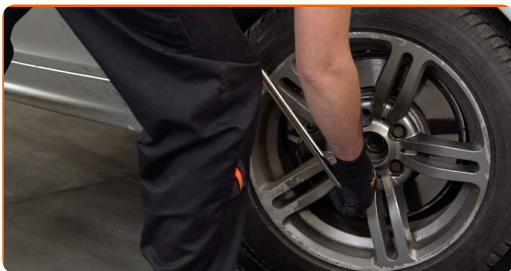


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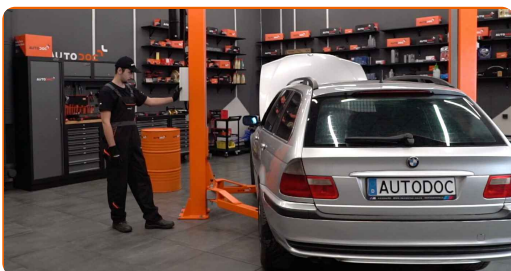
Secure the wheels with chocks.



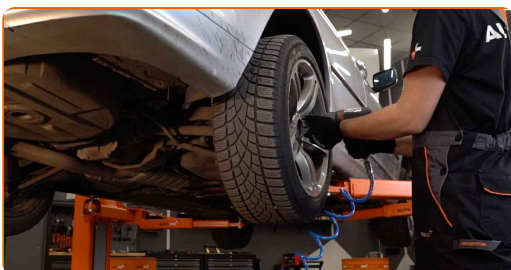
**3** Loosen the wheel mounting bolts. Use wheel impact socket #17.



**4** Raise the rear of the car and secure on supports.



**5** Unscrew the wheel bolts.



**AUTODOC recommends:**

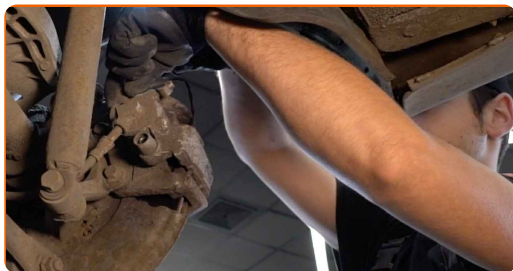
- Important! Hold the wheel while unscrewing the fastening bolts. BMW E46 touring

**6** Remove the wheel.



7

Remove the dust boot caps of the brake caliper guide pins. Use a crowbar.



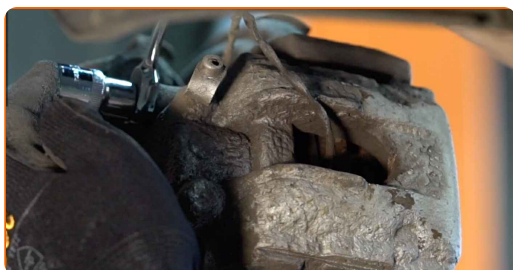
8

Spread the brake pads. Use a crowbar.



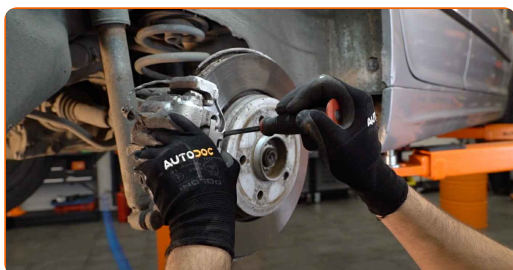
9

Unscrew the brake caliper fastening. Use HEX No.H7. Use a ratchet wrench.



10

Detach the brake caliper retaining spring. Use a crowbar.



**11**

Remove the brake caliper.



**Replacement: brake discs – BMW E46 touring. Tip:**

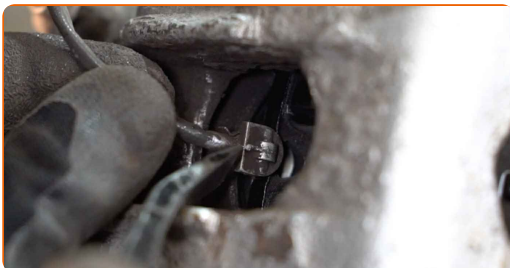
- Tie the caliper to the suspension or to the body with a wire without disconnecting from the brake hose to prevent depressurization of the brake system.
- Make sure that the brake caliper is not hanging on the brake hose.
- Don't press the brake pedal after the brake caliper has been removed. As a result, the piston can fall out from the brake cylinder, and brake fluid leakage and depressurization of the system may occur.

**12**

Remove the brake pads. Use a crowbar.

**13**

Disconnect the brake pads wear sensor. Use a crowbar.



Please note!

- Some cars are not equipped with the brake pad wear sensor.

14

Clean the brake caliper bracket fasteners. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.



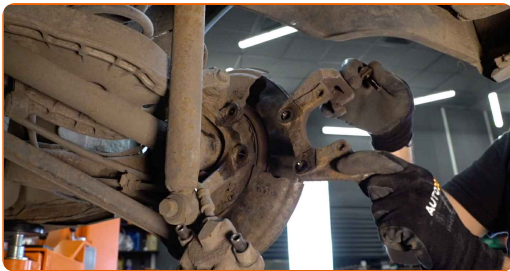
15

Unscrew the caliper bracket fastening. Use a drive socket #16. Use a ratchet wrench. Use a tap wrench.



16

Remove the caliper bracket.



17

Clean the brake disk surface. Use a wire brush. Use WD-40 spray.





**18**

Unscrew the brake disc fastening. Use Torx T30. Use an impact screwdriver.



Replacement: brake discs – BMW E46 touring. AUTODOC recommends:

- If necessary, use a rubber mallet.

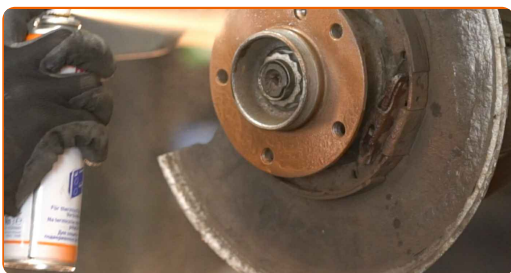
**19**

Remove the brake disc.



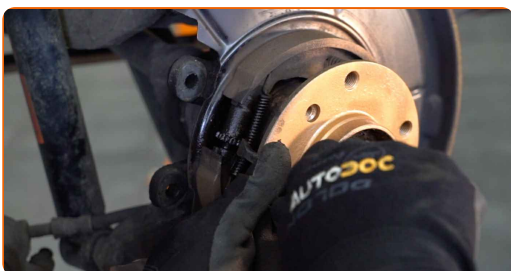
**20**

Clean the hub. Use a wire brush. Treat the contacting surface. Use copper grease.

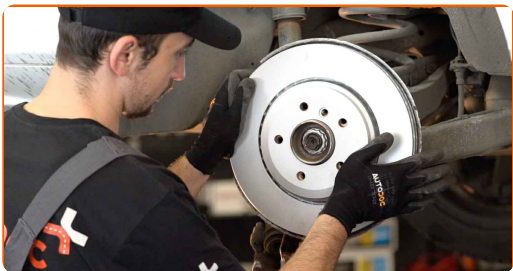


**21**

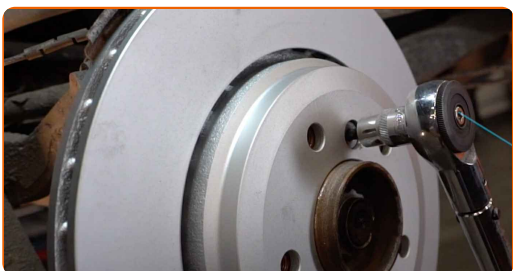
Move the parking brake shoes against the drum. Use a crowbar.



22 Install the brake disc.



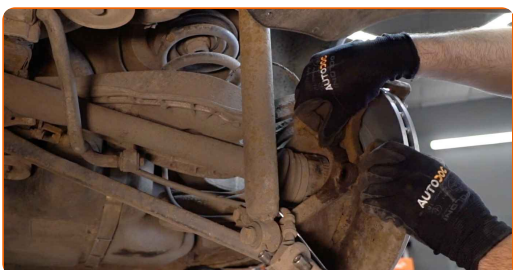
23 Tighten the brake disc fastening. Use Torx T30. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 16 Nm torque.



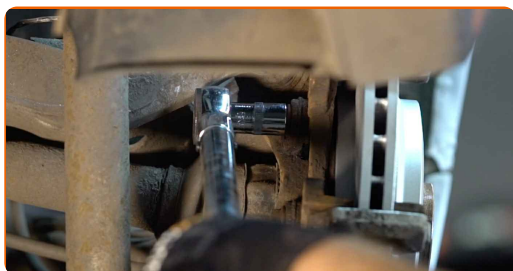
24 Clean the brake caliper bracket from dirt and dust. Use a wire brush.



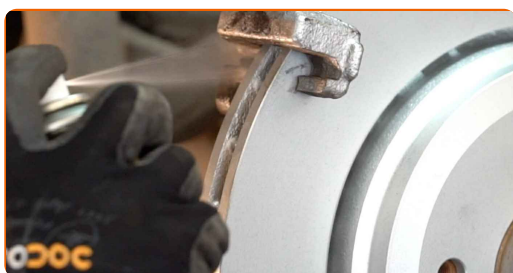
25 Install the brake caliper bracket.



**26** Tighten the brake caliper bracket. Use a drive socket #16. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 65 Nm torque.



**27** Clean the brake caliper bracket from dirt and dust. Use a brake cleaner.



**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Replacement: brake discs – BMW E46 touring. After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

**28** Treat the brake caliper piston. Use a brake cleaner.

**AUTODOC recommends:**

- After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

29

Press in the brake caliper piston. Use brake caliper wind back tool.



30

Install the brake pads.



Replacement: brake discs – BMW E46 touring. Professionals recommend:

- If going to use the old brake pads, clean them.

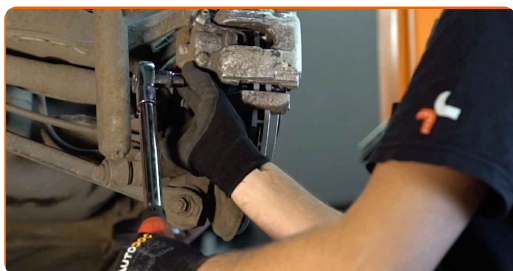
31

Clean the brake caliper guide pins. Use a wire brush.



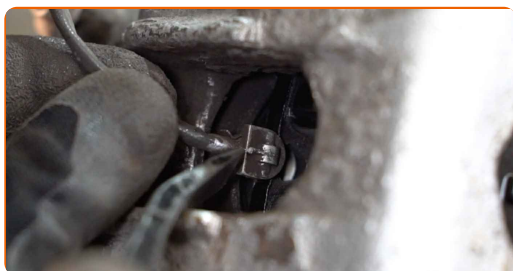
32

Install the brake caliper and fix it. Use HEX No.H7. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 30 Nm torque.



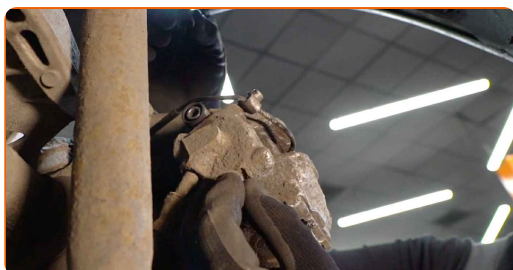
33

Connect the brake pads wear sensor. Use a crowbar.



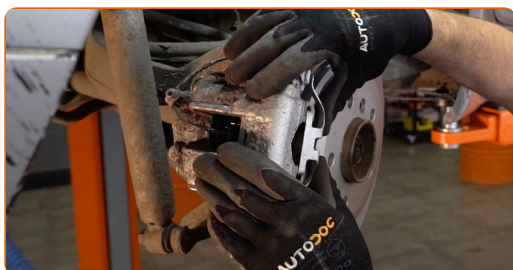
34

Install the dust boot caps of the brake caliper guide pins.



35

Install the brake caliper retaining spring.



36

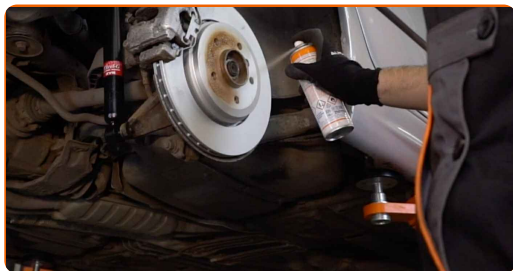
Clean the brake disk surface. Use a brake cleaner.

Replacement: brake discs – BMW E46 touring. Tip from AUTODOC:

- After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

37

Treat the surface where the brake disc contacts the wheel rim. Use copper grease.



38

Install the wheel.

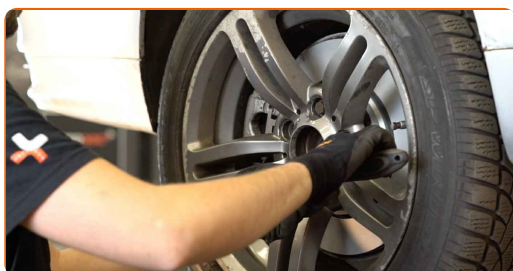


**AUTODOC recommends:**

- Warning! To avoid injury, hold the wheel while screwing in the fastening bolts on the car. BMW E46 touring

39

Screw in the wheel bolts. Use wheel impact socket #17.



**40**

Lower the car and working in a cross order, tighten the wheel bolts. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 120 Nm torque.



**41**

Remove the jacks and chocks.



**Replacement: brake discs – BMW E46 touring. Tip from AUTODOC experts:**

- Check the brake fluid level in the expansion tank and refill if necessary.

**42**

Tighten the brake fluid reservoir cap.



**AUTODOC recommends:**

- BMW E46 touring – Press the brake pedal several times with the engine shut down until you feel the resistance built up.

43

Close the hood.



**WELL DONE!** 

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